

REMARKS**All claims define allowable subject matter**

Claims 1-16 are objected to because the term “slip” is broad and unclear. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s interpretation of the word “slip” as a “printed portion on a recording material.” Applicant would suggest that “slip” should be interpreted as a “discrete portion of printed material such as a receipt, a form, a reproduction of a printed page, etc., more than one of which may be printed on a single page.”

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,548,390 to Sugisaki (“Sugisaki”). Applicants respectfully traverses these rejections and urges reconsideration of claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11-12, and 14-16.

Sugisaki does not disclose the limitations of allowing the first printer to print one slip per page or sequentially print a plurality of slips per page or of the second printing control unit receiving size information of a slip on the obverse of the same page, as recited in claims 1 and 9. The Examiner asserts that these limitations are found in col. 6, ln. 58-60 and col. 28, ln. 32-41, respectively, of Sugisaki. Col. 6, ln. 58-60 of Sugisaki describes first and second printers which print on opposite sides of a continuous sheet, while col. 28, ln. 32-41 simply describes the first printer 11 printing a mark on one side of a page to allow the second printer 12 to determine which page is associated with the other side in case of breakage of the continuous form before it is loaded into the second printer.

In contrast to Sugisaki, the present invention allows either a single slip or multiple slips to be printed between page breaks. In other words, multiple slips may be on one side of a single page once the continuous sheet is cut at the page breaks, each slip having its own page-number as clearly shown in Fig. 2. This feature is not disclosed or suggested in Sugisaki, which merely describes printing one page (or slip, as used in the present invention) on each side between page breaks. This feature of the present invention requires size information not necessary in the device disclosed by Sugisaki to obtain correspondence between slips to be printed on opposite sides of the same page, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1 and 9, and their dependent claims 3-4, 6-8, 11-12, and 14-16, be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugisaki and Miyazaki. Those claims being dependent on claims 1 or 9, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-16 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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